

# PASSING THE TEST

## *James 1:12*

**MAIN IDEA:** There is true blessedness in a proper response to your trials.

1/8/17

### An Overview of the Book of James:

#### ➤ *Pressing Problems for the Believer's Concern (James 1:1-18)*

##### Introduction (1:1)

- Trials to Develop Us (1:2-12)—from God
  - ✓ *The Proper Attitude Toward Trials (1:1-4)*
  - ✓ *The Believing Prayer Amid Trials (1:5-8)*
  - ✓ *The Correct Evaluation In Trials (1:9-11)*
  - ✓ *The Blessed Endurance of Trials (1:12)*

### I. True blessedness is not \_\_\_\_\_ as men normally measure \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. The man who \_\_\_\_\_ trials is truly blessed, not one who is \_\_\_\_\_ from trials.**
- Blessedness is often confused with \_\_\_\_\_ prosperity or \_\_\_\_\_ health.
  - This contradicts the “\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_” gospel.
- B. True blessedness is not dependent on \_\_\_\_\_ circumstances but is enjoyed in the midst of \_\_\_\_\_ circumstances.**
- C. True blessedness is a \_\_\_\_\_, not a \_\_\_\_\_.**
- “Blessed \_\_\_\_\_ the man . . .”
  - Such a man is \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, spiritually \_\_\_\_\_.

### II. The man who is truly blessed is not just one who \_\_\_\_\_ trials, but one who \_\_\_\_\_ the trials.

- A. The mere \_\_\_\_\_ of trials in our lives does not \_\_\_\_\_ blessedness.**
- Our \_\_\_\_\_ to the trial is the \_\_\_\_\_ to blessedness.
  - The proper \_\_\_\_\_ is one of \_\_\_\_\_ (cp. Jas. 1:2-4).
    - *Endurance is the \_\_\_\_\_ which enables us to steadfastly \_\_\_\_\_ under the trial, patiently \_\_\_\_\_ for God to build His character into our lives through the trial.*
    - *Endurance involves having an attitude of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in the midst of the trial, seeing the \_\_\_\_\_ of trials in the distance (cp. Jas. 1:3-4).*
- B. The proper \_\_\_\_\_ to trials in our lives will result in being \_\_\_\_\_.**
- It is not merely \_\_\_\_\_ the test that pleases God, but rather \_\_\_\_\_ it.
  - This approval results when our \_\_\_\_\_ is put to the test and found to be \_\_\_\_\_ (cp. I Pet. 1:6-7).

### III. True blessedness is perceived by looking not at the present \_\_\_\_\_, but at the future \_\_\_\_\_ for enduring the trial.

- A. A \_\_\_\_\_ of life will be given for faithful \_\_\_\_\_ of trials (cp. Rev. 2:10).**
- The usages of this term (*stephanos*) in God's Word:
- A \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ at the Greek games (I Cor. 9:25; II Tim. 2:5)
  - A festal ornament of \_\_\_\_\_ worn at times of \_\_\_\_\_ (Song 3:11; Isa. 28:1)
  - A public honor granted for distinguished \_\_\_\_\_ or private \_\_\_\_\_ (Prov. 1:9; 4:9)
  - A symbol of \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ dignity (II Sam. 12:30; Psa. 21:1; Zech. 6:11)  
(*The Epistle of St. James*, Joseph B. Mayor, p. 46)
- B. The crown becomes a powerful \_\_\_\_\_ for faithful endurance and service.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ will be given—the crown of \_\_\_\_\_ (Jas. 1:12; Rev. 2:10; cp. I Cor. 9:25; I Thess. 2:19; II Tim. 4:8; I Pet. 5:4)
- \_\_\_\_\_ it is attained—through faithful \_\_\_\_\_ motivated by \_\_\_\_\_ (Jas. 1:12; Rev. 2:10; I Pet. 1:6-8)
- \_\_\_\_\_ it will be presented—when Christ \_\_\_\_\_ (II Tim. 4:18; I Thess. 2:19; I Pet. 5:4; cp. I Cor. 4:5; II Cor. 5:10)
- \_\_\_\_\_ it will be received—to lay it at the feet of Jesus for His \_\_\_\_\_ (Rev. 4:9-11)

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  - ✓ *The Blessed Endurance of Trials (1:12)*

### **I. True blessedness is not measured as men normally measure blessedness.**

- A. *The man who endures trials is truly blessed, not one who is free from trials.***
  - Blessedness is often confused with *material* prosperity or *physical* health.
  - This contradicts the “*health, wealth, and prosperity*” gospel.
- B. *True blessedness is not dependent on good circumstances but is enjoyed in the midst of trying circumstances.***
- C. *True blessedness is a declaration, not a wish.***
  - “*Blessed is the man . . .*”
  - Such a man is *happy, fortunate, spiritually prosperous*.

### **II. The man who is truly blessed is not just one who encounters trials, but one who endures the trials.**

- A. *The mere presence of trials in our lives does not guarantee blessedness.***
  - Our *response* to the trial is the *key* to blessedness.
  - The proper *response* is one of *endurance* (cp. Jas. 1:2-4).
    - *Endurance is the strength which enables us to steadfastly remain under the trial, patiently waiting for God to build His character into our lives through the trial.*
    - *Endurance involves having an attitude of joy and faith in the midst of the trial, seeing the product of trials in the distance (cp. Jas. 1:3-4).*
- B. *The proper response to trials in our lives will result in being approved.***
  - It is not merely *taking* the test that pleases God, but rather *passing* it.
  - This approval results when our *faith* is put to the test and found to be *genuine* (cp. I Pet. 1:6-7).

### **III. True blessedness is perceived by looking not at the present trial, but at the future reward for enduring the trial.**

- A. *A crown of life will be given for faithful endurance of trials (cp. Rev. 2:10).***

The usages of this term (*stephanos*) in God's Word:

  - A *wreath of victory* at the Greek games (I Cor. 9:25; II Tim. 2:5)
  - A festal ornament of *flowers* worn at times of *joy* (Song 3:11; Isa. 28:1)
  - A public honor granted for distinguished *service* or private *worth* (Prov. 1:9; 4:9)
  - A symbol of *royal* or *priestly* dignity (II Sam. 12:30; Psa. 21:1; Zech. 6:11)  
(*The Epistle of St. James*, Joseph B. Mayor, p. 46)
- B. *The crown becomes a powerful incentive for faithful endurance and service.***

- **What** will be given—the crown of *life* (Jas. 1:12; Rev. 2:10; cp. I Cor. 9:25; I Thess. 2:19; II Tim. 4:8; I Pet. 5:4)
- **How** it is attained—through faithful *endurance* motivated by *love* (Jas. 1:12; Rev. 2:10; I Pet. 1:6-8)
- **When** it will be presented—when Christ *returns* (II Tim. 4:18; I Thess. 2:19; I Pet. 5:4; cp. I Cor. 4:5; II Cor. 5:10)
- **Why** it will be received—to lay at the feet of Jesus for His *glory* (Rev. 4:9-11)